

REMARKS

The present application includes claims 1-11, 14-23, 25-32, 34-37, 40-46, and 49. Claims 1-11, 14-23, 25-32, 34-46, and 48-49 were rejected by the Examiner. By this Response, claims 1, 6, 7, 14, 18, 25, 34, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, and 49 have been amended. Claims 38, 39, and 48 have been canceled.

Claim Amendments

By this Response and per the Examiner's suggestion to obtain allowance of the pending claims, claims 1, 6, 7, 14, 18, 25, 34, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, and 49, have been amended. While the Applicant reserves the right pursue the claims in their original and/or other forms in a continuation application, the Applicant submits that, for at least the reason of the amendment, the pending claims represent patentable subject matter allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the claimed portal is configured to access the remote data center for medical content and medical services. The portal provides access to the medical content for at least one of viewing and locally retrieving the medical content in collaboration with a plurality of users. The portal provides the medical services to a user at a user terminal remotely via the portal. Thus, execution of the services occurs remotely at the remote data center and is provided to the user at a user terminal via the portal. Dependent claim 6 has also been amended to recite that the remote data center comprises an application service provider remotely storing and providing medical content and medical services for local access and remote execution by a user at a user terminal. Dependent claim 7 has been amended to

recite that the portal allows the medical content and the medical services to be stored at the remote data center and shared among a plurality of users.

These limitations are neither taught or suggested by either the Killcommons or Rothschild references and, therefore, cannot be present in their theoretical combination. Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-11 should be allowable over the cited art of record.

Claim 14 has been amended to recite a method for accessing medical content and medical services wherein medical services are activated via the portal for execution of at least one medical service remotely at the remote data center and local display via the portal. Dependent claim 18 has also been amended to recite that display of the medical content and execution of the medical service at the at least one link is provided to a user via the portal.

These limitations are neither taught or suggested by either the Killcommons or Rothschild references and, therefore, cannot be present in their theoretical combination. Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 14 and its dependent claims 15-23 should be allowable over the cited art of record.

Claim 25 has been amended to recite an information portal including a web site for accessing medical content and medical services. The web site provides access to a remote data center storing medical content and medical services. The web site provides access to the medical content for at least one of viewing and locally retrieving the medical content in collaboration with a plurality of users and provides the medical services to a user remotely via the web site.

These limitations are neither taught or suggested by either the Killcommons or Rothschild references and, therefore, cannot be present in their theoretical combination. Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 25 and its dependent claims 26-32 should be allowable over the cited art of record.

Claim 34 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 38-39 and recite a method for storing medical content and medical services at a remote data center. Said method includes accessing the remote data center via an external access connection and storing the medical content and the medical services at the remote data center. The method further includes accessing a portal to request at least one of the medical content and the medical services from the remote data center. The medical content is viewed from the remote data center at a user terminal via the portal. The medical services are executed from the remote data center and a user interacts with execution of the medical services via the portal.

These limitations are neither taught or suggested by either the Killcommons or Rothschild references and, therefore, cannot be present in their theoretical combination. Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 34 and its dependent claims 35-37 and 39-46 should be allowable over the cited art of record.

Claim 49 has been amended to recite that the claimed web site is configured to access the remote data center for medical content and medical services. The web site provides access to the medical content for at least one of viewing and locally retrieving the medical content in collaboration with a plurality of users. The web site provides the medical services to a user via a

web browser remotely via the web site. Thus, execution of the services occurs remotely at the remote data center and is provided to the user via a web browser via the web site.

These limitations are neither taught or suggested by either the Killcommons or Rothschild references and, therefore, cannot be present in their theoretical combination. Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-11 should be allowable over the cited art of record.

While the Examiner admits that none of the cited references discloses the claimed provision of medical content and medical services, the Examiner asserts that the limitations regarding medical content and medical services represent “non-functional information stored and accessed by the accessible portal.” The Examiner asserts that the medical content and medical services “are not functionally related to the functions of the centralized medical information system ... and will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability.”

However, as clarified by the claim amendments discussed above, the medical content and medical services are functionally related to the claimed invention and reinforce its patentability. As the courts have stated and the USPTO has echoed in its Examination Guidelines for Computer-Related Inventions, the claimed invention as a whole must accomplish a practical application. That is, it must produce a “useful, concrete and tangible result.” *State Street Bank & Trust Co. v. Signature Financial Group*, 149 F.3d 1368, 1373 (Fed. Cir. 1998). The subject matter should possess a certain level of “real world” value, as opposed to subject matter that represents nothing more than an idea or concept, or is simply a starting point for future investigation or research. *In re Ziegler*, 992 F.2d 1197, 1200-03 (Fed. Cir. 1993). *See also*

MPEP 2106. Here, claimed in various ways, a portal and/or method of use provide not only medical content but also medical services remotely to a user. Thus, a user is able to access and have executed medical services, including time management tools, educational tools, and/or administrative tools, via the portal. This is clearly a practical application and a useful result not found in Killcommons or Rothschild. While Killcommons provides medical content, such as instances of past treatment, neither Killcommons nor Rothschild provide any such medical services. Among other things, the present application defines services to include time management tools (such as calendars or planners, for example), educational background services (such as electronic libraries or reference materials, for example), continued education services (such as on-line courses or educational materials, for example), scheduling services (such as operating room schedulers, equipment schedulers, or appointment schedulers, for example), administrative services, healthcare practitioner search services, patient status services, and/or healthcare practitioner communication services (such as “chat” rooms or other electronic conversational media, for example), for example. Content is provided for remote viewing and services are executed remotely and provided for viewing and interaction via a web site or portal, for example. Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

§ 103 Rejection Response

Claims 1-11, 14-23, 25-32, 34-46, and 48-49 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Killcommons et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,424,996) in view of Rothschild et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0016718).

The Applicant turns to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-11, 14-23, 25-32, 34-46, and 48-49 as being unpatentable over Killcommons in view of Rothschild.

The Killcommons Reference

While the pending claims of the present application recite presence and/or use of a remote data center and a portal with a portal/data center connection allowing medical content and medical services to be remotely accessed by a user via the portal, Killcommons teaches assembling multimedia medical image data into an *email* for electronic mail communication to a user's computer (Abstract). The data in the email is then extracted from the email to the user's computer by the user's computer and its browser enhancement module. The browser enhancement module is a "plug-in" or ActiveX control to enable a web browser to accommodate the multimedia image data (Abstract). The plug-in or ActiveX control at the user machine instructs the server on how to compile the email (Abstract). Conversely, the pending claims recite systems and methods in which a user simply selects and then views/uses medical content and/or medical services.

As previously stated, while Killcommons communicates medical images, it does not teach providing *medical services*, such as time management services, educational services, and administrative services, let alone *remotely* providing medical services (*see, e.g.,* col. 1, ln. 49 – col. 2, ln. 59). Killcommons makes brief mention of radiology or pathology reports or prior instances of treatment but does not disclose or fairly suggest providing medical content such as patient information, library information and administrative information (col. 9, ll. 37-39). The ability to select from various instances of prior treatment mentioned once in Killcommons is not

providing a medical service, such as a time management service, an education service, an administrative service, etc., as recited in the pending claims.

As discussed above, providing a service and/or facilitating remote execution of a service through a portal is functional and should be given patentable weight when evaluating the claims in view of the prior art. As set forth in the PTO's Examination Guidelines, a useful, concrete and tangible result can be specifically recited in the claim or flow inherently therefrom. Non-functional descriptive material is defined as an abstract idea, does not impart functionality to the computer, just data or data format. The pending claims clearly recite functional material (e.g., running an assembly line or executing a stock transaction is sufficient).

Thus, the Applicant submits it is clear that Killcommons, which employs a server to gather image data into an email that is sent via an electronic mail program to a user computer to be extracted and stored on the local user's machine, is far removed from the presently claimed invention (*see, e.g.*, col. 3, ln. 31 – col. 4, ln. 22 and col. 9, ln. 42 – col. 10, ln. 57). The Killcommons system “pushes” the email data to the user's local machine as opposed to employing a centralized, application service provider model. To that end, Killcommons assembles the image data into an *email* for local storage rather than remotely providing access via a *portal*. Shifting functionality from a user to a server, and thus eliminating the browser enhancement module and email exchange, would be counter to the teachings of Killcommons, as shown in Figures 1, 2(a-d) and 3 and associated description. Furthermore, as stated by the Examiner, Killcommons does not teach, nor does it fairly suggest, a remote data center.

The Rothschild Reference

Turning now to Rothschild, in order to anticipate the presently claimed invention, Rothschild must reasonably cure the many deficiencies of Killcommons with respect to the pending claims.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art and not based on applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). MPEP 706.02(j).

The Examiner states that Rothschild is relied on to teach a medical ***image*** management system that includes a central data management system (item 30 in Figure 4), which is located remotely from the medical image system and the remote image viewing system (item 40 in Figure 4 and paragraph 155). Rothschild teaches a medical image management system that uses a central data management system to centrally manage the storage and transmission of medical images between remotely located facilities (Abstract). Specifically, Rothschild teaches the electronic delivery of medical images to doctors and other interested parties preferably using “push” technology, which delivers an image to a remote image viewing system (*see, e.g.*, page 5, paras. [0036] and [0042]; page 6, paras. [0053-54]). A polling system is provided so that remote or local workstation may request queued data to be delivered that is awaiting delivery in a medical image database management system (page 9, paras. [0089-90]). Additionally,

Rothschild provides a system for tracking delivery of the image (page 5, para. [0037] and page 7, para. [0068]). Rothschild does not provide medical services as recited in the pending claims of the present application.

Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that Rothschild clearly does not teach or fairly suggest providing other medical *information*, including patient information, library information and administrative information, for example, via a portal. Additionally, Rothschild does not teach providing *medical services*, such as time management services, educational services, and administrative services, via a portal. Rothschild does not teach or reasonably suggest *remotely* executing and providing medical services via a portal or web site. Rothschild does not teach or fairly suggest a portal providing a single access point for access to medical content and medical services. Rather, Rothschild addresses a medical *image* management system capable of communicating medical *images* in the form of electronic records (*see, e.g.,* Abstract).

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that Rothschild does not teach or fairly suggest the limitations claimed by the present application.

Combination?

Since neither Killcommons nor Rothschild teach or fairly suggest providing accessing to and viewing of medical content, including a medical image and at least one of patient information, library information and administrative information, and providing remote execution of and interaction with medical services, including time management services, educational services, and administrative services, via a portal or web site, any combination of Killcommons and Rothschild still faces at least this deficiency with respect to the pending claims. Furthermore, hosting medical content and services and providing such content and services

remotely runs counter to the teachings of Killcommons, which places a premium on the rapid communication of complete files via email and the pushing of information to the local user to *rely on the local user to provide the processing power* to view and/or manipulate the images and the storage capacity to store the images.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 14, 25, 34, and 49 and their respective dependent claims are allowable over the prior art of record and are patentable for at least the reasons given above. Allowance of claims 1-11, 14-23, 25-32, 34-37, 40-46, and 49 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicant can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Applicant at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to the Deposit Account of GEMS-IT, Account No. 502401.

Respectfully submitted,

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